

CENTRE FOR BRITISH STUDIES
GROSSBRITANNIEN-ZENTRUM



The NHS and the Legacies of Empire

Conference Programme

A symposium
to mark the 75th anniversary
of the National Health Service



bmm

Berliner
Medizinhistorisches
Museum der Charité

Overview

THURSDAY 5TH OCTOBER

8.45	GBZ	Conference registration
9.00—9.30	GBZ	Welcome & Introductions
9.30—11.00	GBZ	1: Staffing the hospitals
11.00—11.30	GBZ	Kaffeepause
11.30—1.00	GBZ	2: GPs and community care
1.00—2.00	GBZ	Mittagessen
2.00—3.30	GBZ	3: The tropical laboratory
3.30—4.00	GBZ	Kaffeepause
4.00—5.30	GBZ	4: Public health in Germany
5.30—6.30	GBZ	Keynote lecture with Donna Kinnair
6.30—7.30	GBZ	Reception

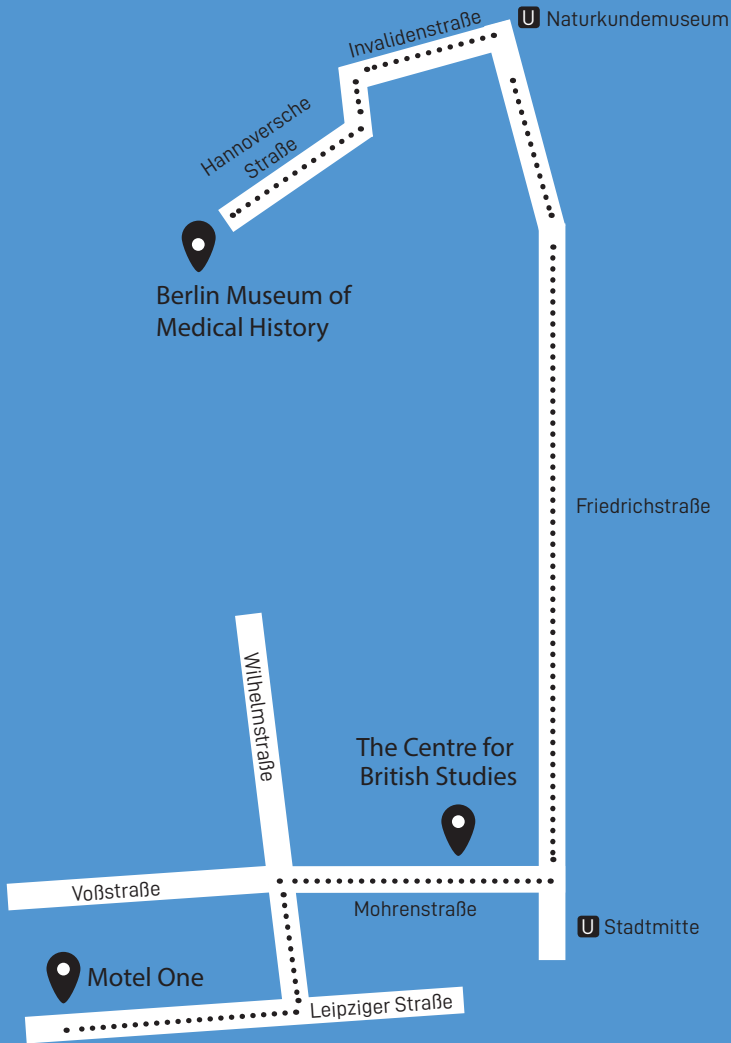
FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER

9.30—11.00	GBZ	5: Empire and Commonwealth
11.00—11.30	GBZ	Kaffeepause
11.30—1.00	GBZ	6: Health inequalities and race
1.00—2.30	GBZ	Mittagessen
2.30—3.30	BMM	Tour of BMM or Exposed documentary
3.30—4.30	BMM	Keynote lecture with Pascal Grosse
4.30—5.00	BMM	Kaffeepause
5.00—6.00	BMM	7: Hidden histories
6.00—7.00	BMM	8: NHS futures: a roundtable discussion
7.00—8.00	BMM	Reception

This two-day international symposium marks the 75th anniversary of the British National Health Service (NHS) by focusing on a neglected theme in the organisation's history, culture and current medical practices. The NHS and the legacies of empire investigates the influence of race, colonialism and migration on different aspects of public health in the UK from 1948 through to the present day.

The NHS is a unique public health provider established in 1948. Britain spends around 12% of GDP on healthcare, one of the highest rates in Europe, with a relatively low take-up of private health cover (only around 11% of the population). The NHS is an iconic British institution, its central place in public consciousness demonstrated during the recent Covid-19 pandemic by the slogan 'Save the NHS' and the weekly ritual of millions of Britons standing outside their homes to applaud its work. The NHS remains a powerful reminder of national unity at the end of the Second World War and the political consensus around the welfare state that dominated the second half of the 20th century. However, this familiar story leaves out a significant element: the contribution of British ethnic minorities. Although the reliance of the NHS for its staff on people from a black and minority ethnic (BME) background is well-documented (22.4% in 2021), the wider cultural, historical and medical context of this phenomenon is under-investigated.

By showcasing recent scholarly research and community projects this symposium has four main aims. 1) To highlight how the NHS was established and developed during Britain's transition from Empire to Commonwealth; 2) To understand better the impact of health inequalities on BME communities in the UK; 3) To compare the colonial legacies within the NHS with the modern German public health system; and 4) To debate the future of the NHS with health policy experts.



The Centre for British Studies (GBZ)

Mohrenstraße 60, 10117 Berlin

- 21 min U6 (to Kurt-Schumacher-Platz) + Walk
- U6 Stadtmitte → U6 Naturkundemuseum
- → via Invalidenstr. and Hannoverische Str.

Berlin Museum of Medical History of the Charité (BMM)

Charitéplatz 1, 10117 Berlin

The Centre for British Studies

Mohrenstraße 60, 10117 Berlin

- 7 min Walk
- via Wilhelmstraße and Leipziger Str.

Hotel Motel One

Leipziger Straße 132, 10117 Berlin

VENUES

The symposium is hosted by the Centre for British Studies (GBZ) in its main conference room on the first floor:

Centre for British Studies / Großbritannien-Zentrum
Mohrenstraße 60
10117 Berlin

The final part of the symposium on Friday 6 October takes place at a different venue, the Berlin Museum of Medical History (BMM):

Berliner Medizinhistorisches Museum der Charité
Charitéplatz 1
10117 Berlin

HYBRID TRANSMISSION

Our conference room has capacity for around 80 people. There are also overflow rooms, from where the proceedings can be followed on-screen. The NHS and the legacies of empire is also being live-streamed via Zoom.

CATERING

Tea, coffee and lunch is provided on both days for in-person participants.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: @CentreforBritishStudies
X/Twitter: @GBZ_HUBerlin

Programme

DAY 1: THURSDAY 5TH OCTOBER

8.45 Thursday

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

9.00-9.30 Thursday

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Kieran Drake (British Embassy)

Helga Stellmacher (Director of the British Council, Germany)

Rupert Graf Strachwitz (Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft)

9.30-11.00 Thursday

1. STAFFING THE HOSPITALS

Chair: **Peter D'Sena** (University of Hertfordshire)

Louise Ryan (London Metropolitan University)

Irish nurses in the NHS

Virinder Kalra (University of Warwick)

Post-NHS melancholia: privatisation and migrant

Montaz Marché (University of Birmingham)

An African princess in Guy's Hospital: the story of Princess Adenrele Ademola

11.00-11.30 Thursday

KAFFEPAUSE

11.30-1.00pm Thursday

2. GPS AND COMMUNITY CARE

Chair: Barry Doyle (University of Huddersfield)

Fallon Mody (University of Melbourne)

'A veritable army of us refugees': migrant medical labour and legacies of the NHS in post-war Australia

Omar Dewachi (Rutgers University)

Iraqi doctors in Britain

Saima Nasar (University of Bristol)

Patrolling race and the UK's medical borders

1.00-2.00 Thursday

MITTAGESSEN

2.00-3.30 Thursday

3: THE TROPICAL LABORATORY

Chair: **Virinder Kaul** (University of Warwick)

Rebecca Martin (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and colonial histories

Peter D'Sena (University of Hertfordshire)

Colonial medical services and the early years of the NHS

Martin Bricknell (King's College London)

The armed services and the NHS

3.30-4.00 Thursday

KAFFEPAUSE

4.00-5.30 Thursday

4. PUBLIC HEALTH IN GERMANY: COMPARISONS AND CONTRASTS

Chair: **Heike Weiters** (Institut für Geschichtswissenschaften, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Lisa Pepler (Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin)

Turkish physicians between health and migration policy in Germany: From 'doctor' to 'Turkish doctor' in 50 years

Lorraine Frisina Doetter & Gabriela de Carvalho (Universität Bremen)

The health care system: international phenomenon and conceptually moving target

5.30-6.30 Thursday

KEYNOTE LECTURE

Chair: **Miles Taylor** (Centre for British Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Donna Kinnair

Former Chief Executive, Royal College of Nursing



*The NHS at 75. A challenged institution.
Still benefiting the health of our nations*

Dame Donna Kinnair is the former Chief Executive of the Royal College of Nursing, and has worked in the NHS since 1983.

6.30-7.30 Thursday

RECEPTION

DAY 2: FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER

9.30-11.00 Friday

5. EMPIRE AND COMMONWEALTH

Chair: **Kalika Mehta** (Centre for British Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Barry Doyle (University of Huddersfield)

Imperial and post-imperial healthcare before welfare states

Lynda Bryder (University of Auckland)

Transnational health policy flows between New Zealand and the UK

Ed De Vane (University of Warwick)

Moral leadership in the world?: attempts to export the NHS, 1940s – present

11.00-11.30 Friday

KAFFEPAUSE

11.30-1.00pm Friday

6. HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND RACE

Chair: **Stephani Hatch** (King's College London)

Josephine Adekola (University of Glasgow)

Racism and inequity to access health and social care in Scotland

Grace Redhead (University of Exeter)

Sickle cell anaemia, medical activism and race in the NHS

Iyiola Solanke (University of Oxford)

Wellbeing and resilience in BAME families and communities

1.00-2.30 Friday

MITTAGESSEN

2.30-3.30 Friday (BMM)

Tour of the Berlin Museum of Medical History

Venue: Berlin Museum of Medical History

OR

Exposed

a documentary about Nursing narratives in the time of Covid-19
introduced by Anandi Ramamurthy (Sheffield Hallam University)

Venue: Rudolf Virchow Lecture Theatre, Berlin Museum of Medical History

to preview, please go to: <https://nursingnarratives.com/exposed/>

3.30-4.30 Friday (BMM)

Venue: Rudolf Virchow Lecture Theatre, Berlin Museum of Medical History

KEYNOTE LECTURE

Chair: **Dora Vargha** (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Pascal Grosse

Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin

*'Race', medicine, and empire:
an Anglo-German dialogue, 1850-1950*



Pascal Grosse is a practising neurologist at Charité with a specialisation in neurological sleep medicine as well as a historian of the theory and practice of biopolitics including European colonialism.

4.30-5.00 Friday (BMM)

KAFFEPAUSE

5.00-6.00 Friday (BMM)

7. HIDDEN HISTORIES

Trevor Sterling (Mary Seacole Trust)

Establishing Mary Seacole's legacy in the UK

Mona Jamil (Migration Museum, London)

Heart of the nation: migration and the making of the NHS

Jak Beula (Nubian Jak Community Trust)

The Windrush memorial at Whittington Hospital

6.00-7.00 Friday (BMM)

8. NHS FUTURES: A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Chair: **Louise Dalingwater** (Sorbonne Université, Paris)

Rosena Allin-Khan MP

Stephani Hatch (King's College London)

Tamara Hervey (City University London)

Chikwe Ihekweazu (WHO)

Beate Kampmann (Charité Centre for Global Health)

7.00-8.00 Friday (BMM)

RECEPTION

Acknowledgements

The Centre for British Studies is grateful to the following individuals and organisations for their support and sponsorship of the NHS and the Legacies of Empire:

- Berliner Medizinhistorisches Museum der Charité
- Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
- Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Friends of the GBZ

Please consider joining our Friends' association, comprising alumni, former staff and anyone in Berlin and beyond who is interested in what we do!

Details at: www.gbz.hu-berlin.de/the-centre/contribute

Events at the GBZ

The Centre runs a full programme of free public events throughout the winter and summer semesters. You are very welcome to attend.

Further information at: www.gbz.hu-berlin.de/events